

### **Family and social nexus between Tamil diaspora and Jaffna society: changes in social status of underprivileged groups**

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This study is developed with the following two objectives. First, to get an overall idea about the traditional pattern of overseas migration of Jaffna Tamils. Second, to understand how a certain section of the underprivileged social group has been undergoing changes due to the remittances and other assistance from the Tamil diaspora. The village, Mallakam located in the northern part of Jaffna was selected for this study. This study employed a composition of both qualitative and quantitative research techniques such as case studies, interviews and questionnaire. A comprehensive literature review was carried out. Historically, the trend of international migration in the context of Jaffna society has been considerably based on family and kinship (caste) ties. These ties are significant even in the current trend of overseas migration. Traditionally, certain privileged social groups migrated overseas for educational and employment purposes. The prevailing overseas migration due to escaping hardship of war, seeking social security, getting married and finding jobs occur irrespective of underprivileged caste and class status of people. This pattern of migration and the social and economic relationships between the diaspora and the people residing in Jaffna have created a new middle class in Jaffna irrespective of their traditional underprivileged caste or class background. Moreover, the remittances of diaspora are used to improve the living standard and resources of family, to develop infrastructure and facilities of schools and to expand physical features of temples; the sources of remittances are kinship, family networks and community.

**Key words:** Diaspora, Remittance, Nexus, Social status, Networks and Change

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